

Home Going Services In
Loving Memory of

Thomas L. Parks



Tuesday, July 29, 2003 • 11:00 A.M.

Elmwood United Presbyterian Church
135 Elmwood Avenue, East Orange, New Jersey 07018

REV. ROBERT N. BURKINS, SR.
Senior Pastor

REV. DR. DIANE GIVENS MOFFETT
Associate Pastor

Tommy was born to the late Abraham and Luddie Parks in Rahway, New Jersey. **Tommy** was educated in the Rahway public school system and graduated from Rahway High School where he excelled academically as well as in several sports, which included, football, baseball and basketball. **Tommy** was a State Golden Gloves Champion and later embarked on professional boxing. **Tommy** fought in the welterweight division and compiled a record of 33-3.

Tommy entered the United States Army and was stationed in Fort Hood, Texas. During that time **Tommy** decided to train members of the Army Boxing Team. **Tommy** was honorably discharged bearing the rank of Corporal and later returned to New Jersey.

Tommy accepted the position of Youth Counselor at the Essex County Youth House. Shortly after, Ruben "Hurricane" Carter was released from prison he was taken to **Tommy** for training and guidance.

Tommy decided to return to school and enrolled at Seton Hall University where he earned a BA Degree in Sociology. Afterwards, **Tommy** continued his education by enrolling in Fairleigh Dickinson University where he earned his Masters Degree in Public Administration.

In 1970 **Tommy** worked as Director of the Model Cities Program in Plainfield, New Jersey and later in Newark, New Jersey for many years. Once the program phased out, **Tommy** accepted the position to head the Department of Public Works and Urban Affairs. **Tommy** also served as Director of Newark's Human Resources.

Tommy founded the **PARKSTEIN BOXING CLUB** in Newark, New Jersey where he trained many youths that became amateur and professional boxers.

In 1982 **Tommy** later decided to take on the position of Chief of Staff to long time friend and former Councilman, George Branch at Newark City Hall until his retirement. **Tommy** and Branch also founded the **PARKSBRANCH GYM** in Newark prior to them working together in municipal government.

Although **Tommy** worked as an administrator during the day, he was loyal to his "first love"... **BOXING**, at night! **Tommy** managed and trained some of the most successful and talked about fighters such as; Marty Pettiford, Rueben "Hurricane" Carter, Bobby "Champi" Czyz, Derrick "Poppy" Rolon, Livingstone "RAS-I" Bramble, José Rabolta, Cornell "Slim" Sims, "The Triple Threat Team" - Charles "The Natural" Murray, Alfred "Ice" Cole, Ray "Mercurius" Mercer. Also, fighters, Monte Barrett, Shawn Fitzgerald, Maurice "Mo" Harris and Shannon Briggs just to name a few.

Tommy was a Mentor to many youth but saw something special in a particular young man who became his "lifelong friend," former boxer, professional referee, amateur state champion and current New Jersey State Athletic Commissioner, Larry Hazzard, Sr.

Tommy will be missed by everyone that knew and loved him! **TOMMY IS A TRUE CHAMPION!**

GOD decided to call **Tommy** home on July 24, 2003, with his family at his side.

Tommy was preceded in death by four brothers, Walter, Ernie, Jimmy and Abraham,

Tommy leaves to cherish his memory his devoted wife, Easter Coleman Parks; his son, Craig P. Parks, twin sisters, Lucille and Lucinda; brothers, Nathaniel, Adell and Donald; mother-in-law, Adell Coleman; sisters-in-law, Erma Parks, Myrtle Counts, Vasthi Parks, Charlotte Winslow, Olivia Ervin, Syble Coleman and Allie M Coleman; brothers-in-law, Frank Daniels, Oliver Coleman, Lewis Coleman and Samuel L. Coleman; loyal friend, Renia Knight; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends,

Prayerfully Submitted, The Family

An Order For The Worship Of God

PRELUDE	Minister Hugh Davis, Organist
PROCESSIONAL	Clergy and Family
CALL TO WORSHIP	
OPENING HYMN	
PRAYER	
SCRIPTURE READING	
SOLO	Ms. Jean L. James, Soprano
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	
MOMENT OF SILENCE	
HYMN	"Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior"
EULOGY	The Reverend Robert N. Burkins, Sr.
CLOSING SELECTION	Voluntary
INTERMENT	Rosehill Cemetery, Linden, NJ

Repast immediately following services at the Parks' residence.



Do Not Stand

Do not stand at my grave and weep,
I am not there, I do not sleep,
I am a thousand winds that blow,
I am the diamonds gift of snow,
I am the sunlight on ripened grain,
When you awaken in the mornings hush,
I am the swift uplifting rush,
Of quiet birds in circled flight,
I am the soft stars that shine at night,
Do not stand at my grave and cry,
I am not there, I did not die...



Palfbearers

George Branch
Monte Barrett
Al "Ice" Cole
Sean Fitzgerald

Robert "Bobby" Cxyz
Danny Sheridan
Charles "The Natural" Murray
Alex Kut

Tony Paglucci
Nick Goran
Andre Kut



The family of **Thomas L. Parks** acknowledges with deep appreciation
all acts of kindness extended to them during this bereavement hour.
God bless you all for your thoughtfulness, prayers and concern.

Professional Services Entrusted To:

George E. Cushnie Funeral Home

102 Sanford Street, East Orange, New Jersey • 973-678-1790

Dolores Cushnie, Manager

Lic. No. 4198